

J. F. OBERLIN

1740 – 1826



An Example and Inspiration
for Generations

Oberlin College Library
Sept. – Oct. 1990

J. F. OBERLIN 1740-1826
AN EXAMPLE AND INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS

This exhibition honors Johann Friedrich Oberlin, born two-hundred and fifty years ago, for whom one-hundred and fifty seven years ago, Oberlin College was named. An attempt has been made to show how this country pastor working in an obscure corner of France, who traveled little and wrote less, influenced educators in his own and succeeding generations all over the world.

During his lifetime his fame was spread by visitors and self-styled "pilgrims" who came to see the changes he had wrought in a wretchedly backward, isolated and forgotten region of Alsace called the Ban de la Roche. In the fifty-nine years of his pastorate there he transformed the barbaric inhabitants into literate citizens and, in the process, introduced innovations in education which were a hundred or more years ahead of their time. He, himself, did nothing to publicize his accomplishments. They became known through the writings of those "pilgrims" who came, saw, were impressed, and described their observations. They wrote biographies, novels, and morality tales using Oberlin as a model, and their writings inspired others.

To date, over a hundred books and hundreds of articles have been written in French, German, English, Dutch, Japanese, and other languages about Oberlin. A sizeable selection of these works is on view in this exhibition.

The sources of information for all subsequent writings are Sarah Atkins's 1829 biography in English, and Daniel Stoeber's 1831 and Camille Leenhardt's 1911 biographies in French. These books remain essential to scholars because the authors had access to materials which have since been lost. The best modern biography is by the late Oberlin College Professor of German, John W. Kurtz, which appeared in 1976. Kurtz reinterpreted Oberlin's life in light of modern historical methods and used rediscovered manuscripts and information. Excerpts from a brief biography he wrote for the *Alumni Magazine*, Fall 1972 are reprinted here.

I would like to thank Shelby Warrens for help in producing this catalog on her Macintosh, and to the Archives staff for lending original materials. Except for items labeled 'on loan', everything in this exhibition is from the Oberlin College Library and Special Collections.

Dina Schoonmaker
Special Collections

August 1990

WHAT'S IN A NAME: WHY OBERLIN?

by John W. Kurtz, Professor of German

The name that the minister intoned at the christening in the culturally German, politically French frontier city of Strasbourg in 1740 was Johann Friedrich Oberlin. His family called him Fritz. The name that he used as minister of his French speaking parish in the Vosges mountains of Alsace was Jean-Frédéric Oberlin. His people there called him *cher* Papa. The name that is inscribed in the wrought iron cross that marks his grave at Fouday is just that, Papa Oberlin.

[Oberlin attended the University of Strasbourg receiving a Ph.D. and divinity degree.] After the university, he took a position as tutor in the home of Strasbourg's leading physician and surgeon. This gave him an opportunity to develop some ideas he had conceived about the education of children, to increase his knowledge of medicine by reading in the doctor's library, and to acquire some rudimentary skills in surgery by observation and some practice.

Oberlin had been reared in the tradition of 18th century German Lutheran Pietism, with a strong infusion of the discipline of the Moravian Brethren. On his 20th birthday he had written out a long and solemn "act of consecration" in which he dedicated to God "all that I am and all that I have: the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my portion and my time." It became his habit to renew this pledge by endorsing it again at the beginning of each decade. His last endorsement he made at the age of 80.

Oberlin believed that this act of consecration required of him renunciation of all worldly comforts and total dedication to the working out of God's will. He recognized his opportunity to do so when a call came to serve the community called the Ban de la Roche. It was a large and far flung parish high in the Vosges mountains. It comprised five villages: Waldersbach, Belmont, Bellefosse, Fouday and Solbach. It was physically nearly inaccessible. Its climate was inclement and its soil infertile. It was culturally isolated because its language had deteriorated to a barbarous patois that was incomprehensible even to its neighbors. Its people were suspect and despised as residents of a Protestant island within a Roman Catholic sea. It had been devastated in the Thirty Years War and plundered for centuries by greedy feudal lords under the medieval system of vassalage that persisted in that remote corner of Europe until some years after the French Revolution. For these reasons its poverty was immeasurable. It was a forgotten enclave that seemed to have been passed by in the march of history.

His first concern was for the children and their education. The schoolhouses that he found there were wretched hovels. Among friends in Strasbourg, he raised money to build a new one in Waldersbach, the central village of the parish. To allay the people's hostility, he deemed it necessary to issue a proclamation that the building and maintenance of the new school would bring to them no new financial obligations. Gradually the people came to recognize the value of education; they eventually built and paid for a new schoolhouse in each of the four other villages.

Before Oberlin's arrival, the schoolkeeping function had been contracted to the lowest bidder. Usually that turned out to be the village herdsman. In order to establish teaching as a profession, Oberlin selected his best, most promising pupils and himself trained them to be teachers. To proclaim his own regard for them, to him divine, calling, he gave them the title *régent d'école* and inducted them into their high office in special dedicatory church services.

Oberlin introduced compulsory education by proclaiming from the pulpit that it was the obligation of all parents to send their children to school regularly. He enforced that ruling by applying such sanctions as withholding the sacraments from the parents of habitually truant children; and denying the rite of confirmation to pupils who flouted the regulations. To encourage regular attendance and maximum effort by the children he awarded prizes in an annual honors day ceremony, which, significantly, also took the form of a special church service.

Oberlin's system of obligatory attendance antedates the national compulsory education act in France by more than a hundred years.

In Oberlin's parish the school-leaving age was 16. By way of comparison, consider that in England, where public schools were established some 50 years later, boys and girls were generally taken out of school and put in the mills at the age of 10.

To pay for education, Oberlin eventually collected taxes from all householders, including the childless and the celibate. Surely this was one of the earliest instances of general taxation for the support of education.

Oberlin instituted a system of representative self-government in which the school children exercised legislative, executive and judicial functions.

He supplied textbooks and other materials free of charge, a democratic measure introduced in most of our states only in this century.

Oberlin once wrote a candid self-analysis. It contains the statement: "I have a peculiar esteem for the female sex." That esteem is authenticated by the fact that he was the first person anywhere to employ women as teachers in public schools--surely an innovation that is worthy of our notice at this time, when feminism is on the march, and in this place, where, seven years after Oberlin's death, the opportunity of higher education was for the first time offered to women.

Oberlin's first educational objective was to give his people a viable language, that is to say, to change the vernacular from the incomprehensible patois to standard French. He saw this as such an urgent matter that he could not be content with teaching only the children. He therefore organized night schools for men and women, and thus became a pioneer also in adult education. Among all of Oberlin's educational innovations, however, his one great, historic contribution was the creation of the world's first infant schools, in 1770.

Oberlin made many other significant contributions to the common good.

To improve the economy:

He built roads from village to village within the valley; a bridge over the river Bruche, and a highway to connect the community with the outside world.

He established the crafts essential to a rural economy; first by bringing in journey men, later by apprenticing promising native youths to carpenters and joiners, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and shoemakers.

He and Mme.. Oberlin took groups of girls into their home to train them in the domestic arts.

He introduced spinning and weaving as family fireside industries, thus producing exportable products that brought money into the community.

He created cooperative enterprises, including: an interest free loan fund; a tool crib stocked with essential implements; and a cooperative bake oven society.

For agriculture:

Oberlin organized an agricultural society, probably one of the first--and certainly the most active--in all France. For this he again received national honors. Using the society as an educational instrument:

He improved the quality of the soil by erosion control through contour plowing and terracing; by draining and irrigating; and by the optimal use of organic fertilizers.

He transformed the parson's glebe into an experimental plot, where he developed better strains of such basic crops as rye, wheat, flax, and grasses. Before Oberlin's time there had been frequent potato famines. He developed a new strain from imported seeds, and thus soon produced not only enough of that essential commodity to nourish the people, but also an exportable surplus.

He introduced fruit culture by grafting new, imported stock on existing wild fruit trees. He improved animal husbandry by importing new breeding stock. For health and hygiene: Oberlin was the only medical practitioner in the valley. In order better to serve the people's needs, he sent one of his teachers to his surgeon-friend in Strasbourg for training and made him his medical assistant.

He also sent two young women to be trained as midwives, the first in the Ban de la Roche. He introduced smallpox vaccination--and made it obligatory--soon after it was developed by Jenner and thus put an end to that scourge of the people.

For the improvement of both hygiene and the quality of the environment, he promoted sanitation in farmyards and village streets by insisting on the gathering and composting of litter and dung.

He himself made a collection, along with a classified descriptive index (according to the then new system of Linné) of all the flora of the valley. He also made plant ecology one of the basic courses in the schools, beginning in the infant schools, and thereby eventually eliminated the unwitting ingestion of toxic plants as a frequent cause of death.

He promoted the beautification of the landscape by requiring the planting of fruit and ornamental trees: two for every marriage ceremony performed, one for every baptism, one for each confirmation, etc.

By all his exertions taken together, Oberlin transfigured the quality of life for his people. It would be hyperbolic to say that he lifted them out of poverty into prosperity, for the fact is that the Ban de la Roche has always been, and still is, relatively poor. One can say that Oberlin realized for his backward region in the 18th century, the approximate objectives set by the Peace Corps and VISTA for the underdeveloped countries in the 20th.

Politically, Oberlin was a democrat and a dedicated believer in the Revolution. Even the interdiction of all religious organizations and services, which brought two of the great issues of his life in conflict, the religious and the political, did not disconcert him; he just transformed each congregation into a *citizens' club*, changed his own title from *minister*

to *president*, renamed the churches *club houses*, the prayers *discourses*, the sermons *lectures*, the liturgy and hymnody *community singing*, and carried on essentially as before. When, because of that ruse, he was arrested and carried off to prison by the Committee of Public Safety, he went without protest. The incident, which might have culminated at the guillotine, was providentially terminated by the prior sudden death of Robespierre.

Twenty years later the nation conferred on Oberlin its highest honor; he became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

This summary is too brief to give you an image of Oberlin's character and personality; of his private life; of his generally unorthodox, sometimes bizarre religious beliefs and their centrality, not only in his religious ministry, but also in his social, educational, and economic planning. I can only suggest that you read one of the many biographies of John Frederic Oberlin. Such reading will, I believe, fill out your image of him as an educational leader and social activist who seemed worthy to have named after him an institution in Ohio dedicated to learning and social action; and I hope you will find, on closer acquaintance, that it still seems appropriate now to call this college and this community by his name.

—*Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, November/December 1972

CASE A
BOOKS AND PAPERS BELONGING TO OR WRITTEN BY J. F. OBERLIN

1. Wickersheimer, Ernest

"UNE METEORE" AU BAN DE LA ROCHE OBSERVATION D'OBERLIN
Thann: Journal de Thann, 1938.

A reprint from the "Revue Alsacienne". Oberlin wrote very little except for letters and notices to various religious societies.

Wickersheimer found this among his papers at the University of Strasbourg.

2. Wickersheimer, Ernest

NOTES D'OBERLIN SUR LA FAUNE DU BAN-DE-LA-ROCHE
Strasbourg: Siège Social, 1934.

From *L'Annuaire de la Société historique, littéraire et scientifique du Club Vosgien*.

The notes written by J.F.Oberlin were copied into a notebook by his son, Henri Gottfried and include observations on the birds and some mammals of the area. The birds' names are given in French, the Patois of the region, German, and according to the Linnean system of classification.

3. Oberlin, Johann Friedrich

"A LETTER FROM A RESPECTABLE CLERGYMAN IN ALSACE.
DATED NOV. 3, 1804"

in Reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society...Volume the First, for the years 1805, to 1810, inclusive. No. XV, 1805, pp. 40-41. Translation.

Oberlin thanks them for a gift of 30 shillings with which he will buy Bibles in French and German to give to the poor in his and neighboring villages. He then gives a description of three good women, as typical of the kind of people who will benefit from the gifts.

4. Oberlin, Johann Friedrich

A note to Charles Cuvier (nephew of the famous naturalist Georges Cuvier), dated 31 March 1823, written on the back of one of the hand printed (by Oberlin) Bible quotations which he was so fond of handing out. This item was purchased by the College from a great-grandson of Charles Cuvier in 1930.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives

5. MAGAZIN FUR DIE NEUESTE GESCHICHTE DER EVANGELISCHEN MISSIONS UND BIBEL-GESELLSCHAFTEN, 1823

These two volumes belonged to Oberlin, whose signature is on the cover.

6. Oberlin, Johann Friedrich

MANUSCRIPT BOOK OF OUTLINES FOR SERMONS, 1789

written in Oberlin's hand.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

**7. WOOD CUP MAP, MADE AND PRINTED BY OBERLIN, OF THE BAN DE LA ROCHE
USED TO TEACH GEOGRAPHY TO THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH.**

The children were given the printed outline and had to fill in the towns, rivers, roads and other landmarks, and color the boundaries.

In maps used after the start of the French Revolution the words 'Le Comte' are crossed out.

"Presented to President Fairchild by Oberlin's Grandson, Dr. Witz In the Parsonage at Waldbach, 1871."

See Fairchild's description of his visit to Waldbach in an adjoining case.

8. BLEIBSTATTE DER VERSTORBENEN. DER TEMPEL ZU JERUSALEM.

Sheet of scriptural references printed by Oberlin on his hand-made press.
Gift of Paul Werner. On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

**9. BIBLE VERSES PRINTED BY J. F. OBERLIN ON HIS PRESS AND DISTRIBUTED TO
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS**

Most of these slips of paper containing Biblical quotations were given to Oberlin College by Paul Werner, an author of several articles on Oberlin and pastor of a parish in Alsace, in 1919. He sent them via Augustus Beard, the author of a biography of Oberlin. Additional quotations are scattered throughout the other cases.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

10. Oberlin, Johann Friedrich

REPRESENTATION DES SEPT MONDES, REVELES AU DR. PORDAGE...

Drawn, colored and written by Oberlin.

"A representation of Seven Worlds, revealed to Dr. Pordage."

Dr. Pordage was an Englishman who wrote about the after-life.

Oberlin was a believer in the glories of the life to come and liked to describe and illustrate his views as a way of clarifying his own ideas.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

11. Oberlin, Johann Friedrich

L'ABAISSEMENT MENE A L'ELEVATION. LA TRIBULATION A LA GLOIRE.

Hand drawn, written and colored by Oberlin.

"Humbleness leads to Elevation. Tribulation to Glory." Two Bible verses are used to explain this view.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

12. PORTOFOLIO MADE BY OBERLIN IN WHICH TO KEEP INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICA.

The paper covering the case was probably made by Oberlin as well. It is a typical paste paper used for end sheet and covers of books in the 18th century. The preceding two items were given to Oberlin College in this portfolio.

On loan from the Oberlin College Archives.

13. AUTOGRAPH ALBUM OF PHILLIPE HEISCH

J. Friedrich Oberlin wrote a note in German to Phillipe Heisch in this album on 13 Messidor 4/Rep, or 1 July, 1796. Louise Schepler, Oberlin's adopted 'daughter', housekeeper, and conductrice, signed the album, as did most of Oberlin's children, in French. Of the seventeen inscriptions written in Waldersbach and other towns in the Ban de la Roche, five are in French and the rest in German and all date from 1796-1798. Heisch, of Strasbourg, was a teacher, a vicar in the parish, and old friend of the family.

Given to Oberlin College in 1918 by an unknown donor.

CASE B

BIOGRAPHIES OF OBERLIN

1. Lutteroth, Henri

AUS OBERLIN'S LEBEN

Strassburg: Treuttel u. Wurtz, 1826

A translation by C.W.Krafft of the first biography to appear after Oberlin's death. Lutteroth, a Paris banker and devout Protestant, was an old friend of Oberlin's. An English translation of this book appeared in the "Eclectic Review" in October 1827 and inspired Sarah Atkins to write her *Memoirs*.

2. Stoeber, Daniel Ehrenfried

VIE DE J. F. OBERLIN, PASTEUR A WALDBACH, AU BAN DE LA ROCHE...

Paris, Strasbourg: Treuttel, 1831.

A basic source book for information about Oberlin. Stoeber was a friend of the Oberlin family for many years and had access to original materials long since lost. However, the book is poorly organized, functioning better as a trove of information than a biography.

This copy belonged to P. J. Heisch, also a long time Oberlin family friend and the owner of the autograph book in an adjoining case. It came to the library from the Estate of W. H. Pearce in 1906. We know nothing about Mr. Pearce or how he got the book.

3. Burckhardt, W.

JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN'S VOLLSTÄNDIGE LEBENSGESCHICHTE...

Stuttgart: Scheible, Rieger & Tattler, 1843.

The four parts of this book comprise translations by Burckhardt into German of Sarah Atkins's biography in part one, Stoeber's biography in parts two and three, and a spurious book entitled *Zion und Jerusalem* which is falsely attributed to J. F. Oberlin.

Frank H. Foster, a Professor of Church History, Homiletics, Greek, Hebrew and Oriental languages at various times between 1884 and his death in 1935, gave this book to the library.

4. Atkins, Sarah

**MEMOIRS OF JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH,
IN THE BAN DE LA ROCHE**

London: Holdsworth and Ball, 1829.

All biographies in English prior to that of John Kurtz are based on this book. It went through many editions and was reprinted, condensed, reedited and republished throughout the nineteenth century. Atkins herself was induced to write the book after she "perused the interesting article respecting John Frederic Oberlin, in the Eclectic Review for October, 1827..."

Gift of Robert A. Budington, Professor of Zoology from 1908 to 1954.

5. **ANOTHER COPY**

Loaned by William A. Moffett, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College until August 31, 1990, and now Director of libraries at the Huntington Library in California.

6. **-Pittsburgh: Luke Loomis, 1830. First American edition.**

This edition has a dedication and translations of passages left in French in the London editions by Rev. Luther Halsey.

Given to Oberlin by William Goodell Frost, who was President of Berea College, Kentucky after serving as Professor of Greek at Oberlin in the late nineteenth century.

7. **Atkins, Sarah**

**THE LIFE OF JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH,
IN THE BAN DE LA ROCHE**

Philadelphia: American Sunday School Union, 1830.

"Compiled for the American Sunday-School Union, and revised by the Committee of Publication." This is the famous edition which John J. Shipherd read and which gave him the name for his new educational institution. It, too, went through many editions in this format "adapt(ed)...to the use of the more advanced pupils of Sunday Schools..."

8. **Atkins, Sarah**

**MEMOIRS OF JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH,
IN THE BAN DE LA ROCHE**

London: Holdsworth & Ball, 1831. Third edition.

9. **-Pittsburgh: Luke Loomis, 1832. Later printing of 1st American ed.**

10. **-Cambridge: Hilliard and Brown, 1832.**

11. **-Cambridge: Hilliard and Brown, 1832.**

The inscription on the fly leaf reads:

"Oberlin Collegiate Institution,

Presented by

Thomas Kidder

Andover Theol. Sem.

1834."

making this one of the first books in the library.

[Oberlin College was called Oberlin Collegiate Institute until 1850]

12. **-London: Holdsworth & Ball, 1833. Fourth edition.**

13. **Atkins, Sarah**

LEBEN UND WIRKEN DES JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN...

Pittsburgh: Luke Loomis, 1831. First American edition.

Translation by Christian Lehmus, forward by S.S.Schmucker.

"Presented to Oberlin College by (Miss) Julia Tucho Baker-niece of Mrs. Luther Halsey- March 1908-".

14. **Atkins, Sarah**
**MEMOIRS OF JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH,
IN THE BAN DE LA ROCHE**
Boston: James Munroe, 1845. Second American edition, with additions.
This is an exact reprint of the third London edition with a few translations and exceptions, edited by Henry Ware, Jr.
15. **-New York: Robert Carter, 1857**
A reprint of the first American Pittsburgh edition with translations and a dedication by Rev. Luther Halsey.
The copy exhibited was part of the Union Library Association, (created by the merger of the Ladies Societies Library Association and the College Societies Library Association (for men) in 1872) a privately funded library which grew parallel to the college library until 1908 when the two were joined.
16. **-New York: Carlton & Phillips, 1853. Revised edition**
Another edition, for the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
17. **Leenhardt, Camille**
LA VIE DE J.-F. OBERLIN 1740-1826
Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1911.
Reorganized on a new plan, completed and augmented with numerous unedited documents from the book by D.E.Stoeber.
According to Professor Kurtz, this book "is indispensable to students of Oberlin because many basic documents are now available only in the form in which Leenhardt reproduced them."
18. **Beard, Augustus Field**
THE STORY OF JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN
Boston: The Pilgrim Press, 1909.
Kurtz calls this book "an acceptable adaptation of Atkins and Stoeber". With an introduction by Henry Churchill King, President of Oberlin College, 1902-1927.
19. **Beard, Augustus Field**
THE LIFE OF JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PIONEER OF RURAL EVANGELISM
Tokyo: Kyo-bun Kan, 1930.
Text in Japanese
Translated by Yotaro Kurihara.
20. **Beard, Augustus Field**
THE STORY OF JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN
New York: The Christian Rural Fellowship, 1946.
A reprint of the 1909 edition, with a Retrospect by Ernest Hatch Wilkins, President of Oberlin College from 1927-1946 and an introduction by Henry Churchill King, President from 1902-1927.

21. Heinsius, Wilhelm
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN UND DAS STEINTAL
Lahr/Schwarzwald: Schauenburg, [1955]
A little known biography using new sources and good documentation.
22. Rosenberg, Alfons
DER CHRIST UND DIE ERDE: OBERLIN UND DER AUFBRUCH ZUR
GEMEINSCHAFT DER LIEBE
Olten und Freiburg im Breisgau: Otto Walter, 1953.
23. Parisot, Edmond
UN EDUCATEUR MODERNE AU XVII SIECLE: JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN
Paris: Colin, 1907. Second edition, revised and corrected.
24. Psczolla, Erich
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN 1740-1826
Gutersloh: Verlagshaus Mohn, 1979.
25. Psczolla, Erich
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN 1740-1826
Berlin: Evangelische Verlag, 1979.
East German edition.
26. Kurtz, John W.
JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN
Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1976.
John Kurtz (1906-1984) was Professor of German at Oberlin from 1932 to 1973. This is the best biography of Oberlin in the English language and contains much new material as well as reinterpreting nineteenth century conventions for a twentieth century audience.
On loan from William A. Moffett, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries, Oberlin College (1979-August 31, 1990), Director of the Huntington Library, Pasadena, California.
27. Kurtz, John W.
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN: SEIN LEBEN UND WIRKEN 1740-1826
Metzingen/Wurt: Verlag Ernst Franz, 1982.
The translation is by Ursula Stechow, a long time resident of Oberlin and, among other accomplishments, a former teacher of French in the Oberlin public schools.
28. Goursolas, Francois
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN: LE PASTEUR "CATHOLIQUE" EVANGELIQUE
Paris: Editions Albatros, 1985.
"Au College Oberlin, contribution a l'union entre nos peuples et civilizations, (signed) F. Goursolas"

CASE C
CONDENSED, ABRIDGED AND POPULARIZED BIOGRAPHIES

1. Sims, Thomas

BRIEF MEMORIALS OF JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTOR OF WALDBACH, IN ALSACE AND OF AUGUSTE BARON DE STAEL-HOLSTEIN; TWO DISTINGUISHED ORNAMENTS OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH
London: James Nisbet, 1830.

2. THE MOUNTAIN PASTORS; OR MEMOIRS OF OBERLIN AND NEFF

London: The Christian Tract Society, 1838.

“The published octavo Memoir is too long and too expensive for circulation in the class to which the Christian Tract Society has hitherto directed its attention; and thinking it...likely to excite a strong and useful interest...they publish the present epitome of chief particulars of the life of the excellent pastor.” from the Preface.

3. Schubert, Gotthilf Heinrich von

MEMOIRS OF FELIX NEFF, JOHN F. OBERLIN, AND BERNHARD OVERBERG
Bristol: Wright and Albright, 1840.

Translated from the German by Mrs. Sydney Williams for the Society for the Promotion of Popular Instruction.

4. VIE D'OBERLIN, PASTEUR AU BAN DE LA ROCHE

Lausanne: S. Delisle, 1842.

Published by the Committee for distribution of religious books in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland.

5. Schubert, Gotthilf Heinrich von

ZUGE AUS DEM LEBEN DES JOHANN FRIEDR. OBERLIN, GEWESEN PFARRERS IM STEINTHAL

Nurnberg: Raw'schen, 1842. Seventh edition

Based on Sarah Atkins's 1829 *Memoirs*.

6. Bodemann, Friedrich Wilhelm

JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN, PFARRER IM STEINTHAL
Stuttgart: Steinkopf, 1855.

7. Swaagman, J. Sonius

JOHAN FREDRIK OBERLIN, PREDIKANT IN STEENDAL
Groningen: Roelfsema, 1858.

In Dutch.

8. **Bernard, Frederic**
VIE D'OBERLIN
Paris: Hachette, 1882. Third edition.
Based on Stoeber and Merlin's books.
9. **[Schubert, G.H. v.]**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN, PFARRER IM STEINTHAL
Stuttgart: F. F. Steinkopf, 1903.
Based on Atkins's 1829 *Memoirs*.
10. **Roth, Alfred**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN, DER VATER DES STEINTALS
Neumunster: Christophorus Verlag, 1935
Part of a series called "Bannerträger des Königreichs Jesu Christi:
Lebensbilder apostolischer Persönlichkeiten"
11. **Stucki, Alfred**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN, DER VATER DES STEINTALS
Basel: Friedrich Reinhardt, n.d. Third edition.
12. **Butler, Josephine E.**
THE LIFE OF JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTOR OF THE BAN DE LA ROCHE
London: The Religious Tract Society, 1880?
13. **Oberlin, Eugène**
OBERLIN, JOHANN FRIEDRICH
Sonderabdruck aus W.REINS Encyclopädischem Handbuch der Pädagogik,
1907, Second edition.
14. **Kambli, Wilhelm**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN: DER VATER DES STEINTALS
Zürich: Beer & Cie, 1927.
Gift of John W. Kurtz, Professor of German from 1932 to 1973 and author of one of the major biographies of Oberlin.
15. **Mestral Combremont, Julie de**
UN GRAND SERVITEUR – JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN
Genève: Editions Labor, 1929?
16. **Mestral Combremont, Julie de**
UN GRAND SERVITEUR – JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN
Paris: Editions "Je Sers", [1935]. Second edition.

17. **Oliphant, W. Elwin**
THE LIFE AND WORK OF OBERLIN
London: The Salvation Army Book Department, 1903
Part of the "The Warriors' Library" edited by Bramwell Booth.
18. **[Oliphant, W. Elwin]**
German translation of the preceding book in "Gekronte Gottesstreiter" series.
19. **Pannier, Jacques**
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN, PASTEUR AU BAN DE LA ROCHE (1740-1826)
Neuilly (Seine): Editions de "La Cause", n.d.
20. **Waldenmaier, Hermann**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN: EIN LEBEN UNTER GOTT
Stuttgart: Quell Verlag, 1939.
Written together with Paul Werner, a great-grandson of Oberlin.
21. **Hertzog, E.**
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN
Strasbourg: Editions Oberlin, n.d.
22. **Galpin, C.J., comp.**
THE LIFE STORY OF A GREAT COUNTRY PASTOR—JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN
New York: Home Missions Council of North America, 1941.
"This bulletin...is prepared for pastors, missionaries, and laymen in order that they may become acquainted with this noble 'Protestant Saint.'"
23. **Cowell, Henry J.**
TWO FRENCH PROTESTANT PASTORS AND MYSTICS: JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN AND PAUL SABATIER
London: Spottiswoode, Ballantyne, 1944.
Reprinted from the "Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of London."
24. **Benoit, Jean Paul**
J. F. OBERLIN: PASTOR D'HOMMES
Strasbourg: Editions Oberlin, n.d.
According to John Kurtz, this is one of the best of the inspirational books, written by one of Oberlin's descendants.
25. **Boor, Lisa de**
STARKER ALS DIE FURCHT: VOM WIRKEN JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLINS
Stuttgart: Hünenburg Verlag, 1956.
26. **Koepcke, Cordula**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN: EIN ELSÄSSISCHER LANDPFARRER
Freiburg/Schweiz: Imba Verlag, 1984.

CASE D

NOVELS AND MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. Merlin, Paul

LE PASTEUR OBERLIN

Paris: Delaunay, 1833.

Merlin is one of the authors cited by Sarah Atkins as useful in her research while writing her book, however, it is for a description of Alsace and not for this "nouvelle Alsacienne." When Paul Merlin died he was buried, at his request, near Oberlin in Fouday.

2. Stein, Armin, pseud.

JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN. EIN LEBENSBIOD

Halle A. S.: Eugen Strien, 1899

A novel by H. Nietschmann.

3. Scheuermann, Wilhelm

EIN MANN MIT GOTT: DAS LEBENSWERK JOH. FRIEDR. OBERLINS

Berlin: Ernst Rowohlt, 1937.

A fictionalized biography.

4. Mota, Otoniel

PERDEGANHA

Rio de Janeiro: Centro Brasileiro de Publicidade, 1937.

A novel in Portuguese. *A gift from the author.*

An article from the Oberlin Alumni Magazine, Nov. 1940, by Walter M. Horton, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, describes and gives a bit of the history behind this book.

5. Lienhard, Friedrich

OBERLIN: ROMAN AUS DER REVOLUTIONSZEIT IN ELSASS

Stuttgart: Greiner & Pfeiffer, 1922 [1910].

Review of this book from the Oberlin Alumni Magazine, February 1912, written by Anna Beatrice Doerschuk, class of 1906, Assistant Dean of Women and Instructor in German, 1911-1919, and member of the Board of Trustees from 1926-1955.

6. Dawson, Marshall

OBERLIN: A PROTESTANT SAINT

Chicago: Willett, Clark, 1934

John Kurtz, in his biography of Oberlin, states that this "fictionalized biography is of little value, either as biography or as literature."

7. Büchner, Georg

LENZ

Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1972.

Büchner got the idea for the novella in the early 1830s after reading J.F.Oberlin's account of Lenz's visit to the Ban de la Roche left among his papers in Strasbourg. Some of the text is taken almost verbatim from this memoir. Jakob Michael Reinhold Lenz was a mentally disturbed poet and dramatist who arrived in Waldersbach in 1778 and remained for a few weeks until he became so demented, Oberlin had to send him away. Lenz was a well known dramatist and this incident spread the name of Oberlin far and wide among the literati of the time. The first edition of *Lenz* appeared in 1836, the year before Büchner's early death at 24.

8. Buch, Martha

DIE PADAGOGISCHEN UND SOZIALPADAGOGISCHEN IDEEN JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLINS

Berlin: Julius Beltz, 1932.

9. Hoppe, Th.

DAS OBERLINHAUS: FÜNF JAHRZEHNTE DIAKONISSENARBEIT

Nowawes: Verlag des Oberlinhauses, 1930.

Oberlinhaus is situated in Nowawes near Potsdam, an old weaver colony. It is a charitable institution run by Protestant deaconesses and includes a children's home, a crippled childrens' home, a home for the deaf-dumb-blind, a hospital, and a church. This book celebrates its fiftieth anniversary which took place in 1924.

10. Schering, Ernst

STERNSTUNDE DER SOZIALPADAGOGIK: JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN GRÜNDER DER ERSTEN KINDERGARTEN UND WEGBEREITER DER INNEREN MISSION

Bielefeld: Ludwig Bechauf, 1959.

11. Malgras, M.

LE BIENHEUREUX PERE FOURIER ET LE PASTEUR OBERLIN, NOTICE SUR LES ECOLES EN 1620 ET LES SALLES D'ASILE EN 1770

[Paris: Imprimerie Impériale, 1865] pp. 430-459.

Reprint from an unknown journal.

12. Tsutsumi, Toshiko

THE STRAIN OF REVIVALISM IN JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN AND THE FOUNDING OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

from Obirin Review of International Studies, Obirin University, March, 1990.

Obirin University was founded in 1946 as a girls school, (and became a college in 1966) by Rev. Yasuzo Shimizu who received a B.D. from Oberlin College in 1926 and was inspired by the ideals of J.F.Oberlin and the College. He named his institution Obirin (beautiful cherry forest) his Japanese equivalent for Oberlin and for the site which is surrounded by cherry trees. Since 1982 there has been a formal exchange between the two colleges through the Shansi Memorial Association.

21. Roehrich, E., Rauscher, U., and Haug, H.
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN
 from *La Revue Alsacienne Illustrée*
 Strasbourg: 1910, vol. XII, No.II.
 Reprint resembling a souvenir picture book, with many illustrations.

22. Gutfeldt, Horand
**JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN. EINE WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
 UNTERSUCHUNG SEINER GEDANKWELT, SEINER PADAGOGIK UND SEINES
 EINFLUSSES AUF DIE WELT, MIT EINER KURZEN BIOGRAPHIE**
 Vienna: Author, n.d.
 There is a comprehensive bibliography in this book from which I
 have on occasion, taken a comment.
Gift of Professor John W. Kurtz.

23. Kessler, Maurice
JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN 1740-1826
 Chapel talk, Finney Chapel, November 24, 1953.
 The author was Professor of Violin and Ensemble from 1916 to 1954.

24. Horton, Walter M.
OBERLIN IN ALSACE
 Chapel talk, Finney Chapel, September 23, 1952.
 Walter M. Horton was Professor of Systematic Theology from the
 1920s to the 1960s.

25. Wilkins, Ernest Hatch
JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN'S COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES
 Mimeographed, previously unpublished address. n.d.
 President of Oberlin College from 1927 to 1946, Wilkins was also a
 very well known Dante scholar.

26. Fletcher, Robert S.
OBERLIN: ALSACE AND OHIO
 Assembly talk, Finney Chapel, March 24, 1955.
 Fletcher, the author of the definitive history of Oberlin College up to
 the Civil War, graduated from Oberlin in 1920 and taught in the
 History Department from 1927 until his untimely death in 1959.

27. Fletcher, Robert S.
THE NAME'S THE SAME OBERLIN: ALSACE AND OHIO
 Oberlin: Oberlin Today, Volume 13, Number 6, November 1955.

28. Fitch, Florence Mary
JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN
 [Oberlin: before 1930].
 "This little sketch of John Frederick Oberlin was prepared to read
 before the young women of Oberlin College, that they might know
 more of the man whose name honors our college and whose spirit
 the founders wished to have dominate their enterprise..." from the
 Preface. A member of the class of '97, Florence Fitch served Oberlin
 in many capacities; as Dean of Women, as instructor in Philosophy
 and professor of Biblical literature.

13. **MEMOIR OF JOHN-FREDERIC OBERLIN**
from *The Religious Magazine, or Spirit of the Foreign Theological Journals and Reviews*
Philadelphia: E. Littell, 1828, vol.I.
Reprinted from the *Eclectic Review*. This is the article which inspired Sarah Atkins to write her biography.
14. **J. F. OBERLIN**
from *Chambers's Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts*
Edinburgh: William and Robert Chambers, 1846. no. 87
The article following the one on Oberlin is called "Anecdotes of Ants." *Chambers's Miscellany* is well named!
15. **JOHN F. OBERLIN, PASTOR OF BAN DE LA ROCHE**
from *Littell's Living Age*
Boston: Littell, March 1859, no. 772.
The text is identical with that found in the Presbyterian Board of Publication's little children's book.
16. **OBERLIN**
from *The Penny Magazine*
London: Charles Knight, June 9, 1838.
17. **Parisot, Edmond**
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN (1740-1826) ESSAI PEDAGOGIQUE
Paris, Henry Paulin, 1905.
18. **Wohlfahrt, Jean-Daniel**
LE SORT DES TREPASSES DANS LA THEOLOGIE DE JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN (1740-1826)
Presented to the Université de Strasbourg, Faculté de Théologie Protéstante, 1969. Mimeographed copy. Volume one is the thesis proper, while volumes two and three contain transcriptions of Oberlin's sermons.
Gift of Professor John W. Kurtz.
19. **Mac Arthur, Kenneth C.**
JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN AND THE AMERICAN COUNTRY CHURCH
An unaccepted doctor's dissertation written for Boston University, 1954?
Gift of Professor Walter M. Horton of the Department of Systematic Theology in the Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin College from the 1920s to the 1960s.
20. **Tinker, Charlotte**
A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE INFLUENCE OF JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN THROUGH OBERLIN-IN-SHANSI ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN CHINA
Oberlin College, 1942.
For a Master of Arts in the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin.

CASE E

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **Robbins, Eliza**
BIOGRAPHY FOR SCHOOLS; OR, GOOD EXAMPLES FOR YOUNG PERSONS
Philadelphia: Uriah Hunt, 1836.
Oberlin and his assistant, Louisa Schepler, keep good company with the likes of Peter the Great, William Penn, George Cuvier, and other notables.
2. **LETTRES AUX ENFANTS SUR OBERLIN ET LE BAN-DE-LA-ROCHE**
Strasbourg: Chez Veuve Levrault, 1841.
3. **THE GOOD PASTOR OF BAN DE LA ROCHE IN LETTERS TO CHILDREN**
London: B. Wertheim, 1846.
A translation of *Lettres aux Enfants...*
4. **Swift, Mary A.**
POOR BUT HAPPY; OR, THE VILLAGERS OF BAN DE LA ROCHE AND THE CHILDREN OF ICOLUMBKILL
Hartford: Belknap & Hammersley, 1836
Of the 119 pages in this little book, 95 are a biography of Oberlin.
5. **Demoulin, Gustave**
OBERLIN
Paris: Hachette, 1884.
Bibliothèque des Ecoles et des Familles.
6. **JOHN F. OBERLIN, PASTOR OF THE BAN DE LA ROCHE**
Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, n.d.
7. **Witt, Madame de**
GRANDS SERVITEURS: UNE NOBLE VIE, FREDERIC OBERLIN 1740-1826 ET DANS LES ABIMES, ELIZABETH FRY 1780-1845
Paris: Grassart, [1893].
A gift from Miss Emily Oberlin, not a direct descendant.
8. **Neff, Clarence A.**
JUAN FREDERICO OBERLIN: EL APOSTOL DEL VALLE DE PIEDRA
Mexico: Ediciones Alba, 1941
From the series "Coleccion Character" for young people.
A gift from the author.

9. **THE STORY OF HOWARD AND OBERLIN**
London: W. & R. Chambers, 1894.
John Howard was an English philanthropist and prison reformer.
Why he was coupled with Oberlin in this book is a mystery.
10. **Todt-Kietz, T.**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN
Berlin: Ostdeutschen Junglingsbundes, n.d.
Für Feste und Freunde der Inneren Mission. Heft 13.
11. **Bretschneider, H.**
VIE D'OBERLIN
Dresden: Kuhtmann, 1893.
Bretschneider edited this work using Bernard and Stoeber as sources. It is part of a series of school books in French and English for German children. A small French-German dictionary was published with it.
Gift of Professor W.E.Mosher who taught German at Oberlin from 1899 to 1919.
12. **Berron, Gottfried**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN – GEHILFE GOTTES-HELFER DER MENSCHEN
Lahr-Dinglingen: St.Johannis Drückerei, 1982
Gift of Professor C.H.A.Wager, a member of the English Department from 1900 to 1934.
13. **Haas, Jean-Paul**
JEAN-FREDERIC OBERLIN
Paris: Editions du Rameau, 1986
This is a comic book along the lines of "Classic Comics" which is part of a series called "Figures du Protestantisme d'hier et d'aujourd'hui." Included are sixteen pages of history and description of the region, of life in the time of Oberlin, as well as letters from Oberlin and others.

CASE F
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 1867 TO 1990

1. **LE PASTEUR OBERLIN. ANNIVERSAIRE SEULAIRE DE SON ARRIVEE AU BAN-DE-LA-ROCHE**
Paris: Imp. de Ch. Marechal, 1867.
Published by La Commission Consistoriale de Rothau.
2. **CENTENAIRE D'OBERLIN**
Paris: Fischbacher, 1926.
Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français...Soixante et Unième Assemblée Générale tenue à Strasbourg le 3 Juin 1926.
Includes articles by J.Vienot, President of the Society; J. Pannier, Secretary of the Society; H. Strohl; Ch. Schmidt, National Archives and others.
3. **Cowell, Henry J.**
OBERLINIANA
compiled by Henry J. Cowell, Finchley, London, England. Articles, mostly by Cowell, clipped from various British periodicals, mostly in 1926.
4. **Hertzog, E.**
JEAN FREDERIC OBERLIN
Strasbourg: Librairie Evangelique, 1926.
"This little book was written for the series *Fleurs des Vosges*. It is only a very short sketch, published on the occasion of the Centenary of the death of a man about whom enough can never be said, especially in the land which has had the luck to count him among its best children and greatest citizens." translated from the Introduction.
5. **Strohl, H.**
ETUDES SUR OBERLIN
Paris: Felix Alcan, 1926
From "Cahiers de la Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses publiés par la Faculté de Théologie protestante de l'Université de Strasbourg."
6. **Lienhard, A.**
PREDIGT ZUM GEDACHTNIS DES AM 1 JUNI 1826 ENTSCHLAFENEN J. F. OBERLIN...
[Strasbourg: Jung St.Peter, 1926].

7. **Fiske, G. Walter**
OBERLIN, THE MAN
Oberlin Alumni Magazine, May 1926, 7-8.
 8. **DEUXIEME CENTENAIRE DE L'ARRIVEE AU BAN DE LA ROCHE DE J. F. OBERLIN.**
MARS-AVRIL 1767-1967
Strasbourg: Editions Oberlin, 1967.
 9. **Richardot, Claire**
LE MUSEE OBERLIN DE WALDERSBACH. GUIDES A TRAVERS LES
COLLECTIONS
Strasbourg: Editions Oberlin, 1967.
 10. **Wilkins, Ernest Hatch**
JOHN FREDERICK OBERLIN: A BICENTENARY ADDRESS
[Oberlin: Oberlin College, 1940.]
Given as the first Assembly address of the college year 1940-1941
by the President of the College.
- THE 1990 CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF OBERLIN'S BIRTH
11. **Starr, S. Frederick**
JOHANN FRIEDRICH OBERLIN: A WORTHY EPONYM
Draft of an article which will appear in the *Oberlin Alumni Magazine* in the Fall of 1990.
 12. Invitation from First Church in Oberlin to a service commemorating Oberlin's birth.
 13. Brochure advertising a tour to Alsace with the Oberlin Alumni Association in October 1990.
 14. Cover of the 1989-1990 Oberlin College Course Catalog showing photographs of the Ban de la Roche. The 1990-1991 Catalog cover is identical except for color.

